



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

News Release

CONTACT: Todd Crum
Public Information Representative
Behavioral Health Services
301-600-3285
TTY: Use Maryland Relay
TCrum1@FrederickCountyMD.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

APRIL 5, 2016

PREVENT PILL MISUSE AND ADDICTION: DRUG DISPOSAL DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2016

FREDERICK, MD -- On Saturday, April 30 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., Frederick County residents are strongly encouraged to take their unused or expired medications to one of several drug disposal locations as part of the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day effort sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Nationally, the previous 10 collection events have netted over 5,525,021 pounds (over 2,762 tons) of prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications. This effort is one strategy for preventing the misuse of prescription and OTC medications, thus, preventing unintended overdoses and deaths in our community.

According to the 2013 Maryland Youth Risk Behavior Survey results, 11.5% of Frederick County high school seniors reported taking a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription one or more times in the past 30 days. Additionally, 23.6% of Frederick County high school seniors surveyed reported taking a prescription drug (such as OxyContin, Percocet, codein, or Xanax) without a doctor's

--more--

Barbara A. Brookmyer, M.D., M.P.H. ▪ Health Officer

350 Montevue Lane ▪ Frederick, MD 21702

Phone: 301-600-1029 ▪ Fax: 301-600-3111 ▪ MD TTY: 1-800-735-2258





Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Page 2/Drug Take Back Day

prescription one or more times during their lifetime. These percentages for Frederick County are higher than the State of Maryland rates of 10.9% and 18.6% respectively. Furthermore, results from the Maryland Opioid Misuse Prevention Survey, conducted in March 2015, revealed that 67% of survey respondents reported that people get prescription opioids by stealing them from family members and 58% of respondents got painkillers from friends. Seventy percent (70%) of respondents reported that unused medications should be disposed of during a “medication collection event” and 60% responded that unused medications should be dropped off in a medication disposal box. “While it’s good news that residents know how to safely dispose of unwanted medications, more needs to be done to keep these items out of the hands of unintended users” states Todd Crum, Prevention Supervisor with the Frederick County Health Department, Behavioral Health Services Division. “Drug Take Back events and medication drop boxes provide residents with two safe and easy options to safely discard of unwanted and expired medications”, Crum continues.

On Saturday, April 30 between 10am and 2pm, local law enforcement agencies will participate in this national effort. Local collection sites include:

- Nymeo Field at Harry Grove Stadium - 21 Stadium Dr, Frederick, MD 21703
- Natural Resources Police - 2011 Monument Road, Myersville, MD 21773
- Maryland State Police, Frederick Barracks - 110 Airport Drive East, Frederick, MD 21701

Residents are encouraged to take an active role in this drug prevention event to safely discard unwanted and expired medications. The following items may be dropped off during the event or at one of the drop-off sites: prescription

--more--



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Frederick County Health Department

Page 3/Drug Take Back Day

and over-the-counter medications, medical samples, pet medications, and medicated ointments and lotions. Participants may dispose of their medication in its original container and are strongly encouraged to remove any identifying information from the prescription label.

For more information about the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day initiative, visit www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback. For information about the dangers of prescription medication misuse and the dangers of alcohol and drug use, please visit www.drugfree.org , www.takebackmylife.org, www.medicineabuseproject.org or contact the Frederick County Health Department at 301-600-1755 or visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/BHS .

###